

Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community November 2024

Admission to First Year, 2025/2026

As per the school's *Annual Admission Notice* in respect of admissions to the 2025/2026 school year, applications for admission to first year 2025/2026 closed on 25 October 2024. The school received 668 applications by this date. The total number of applications received last year was 617 in total, 607 by the closing date. Outcome letters will be emailed to all applicants before Friday 15 November 2024.

Sports Hall

The sports hall floor is being resurfaced and this project will commence the second week in December 2024 and will be completed before the school returns in January 2025. The Board acknowledges the Sports Centre management team, the PE department and all involved in the school in bringing this welcome infrastructure improvement to fruition. The new, state of the art surface will be of great benefit both to students and to the local community.

Parent Teacher Association

The Board acknowledges the contribution of the PTA to the school over the last twelve months. The PTA's work includes the annual Christmas market, supporting ParkMUN, the annual table quiz, supporting the resurgence of the Battle of the Bands competition, student lockers, equipment for the school nurses, the annual Debs reception, and funding for student projects such as the Swim Team's hats, cameras for TY students and the Walton Club for STEM subjects. The Board wishes to thank the PTA for its ongoing support to the school and to so many school activities that are beneficial to students, teachers, and parents/guardians.

Mobile Phone Policy

The Board notes that student phone use in the school is currently under review given the national and international backdrop. The consultation process with all school stakeholders is underway and the Board looks forward to reviewing and considering a draft revised policy in term two with possible implementation from the start of term three.

Student Voice

The Board congratulates the Cultural Council who organised a successful Halloween week, fundraising for UNICEF through a bake sale, *Lounge at Lunchtime*, and a costume competition. Gold Week was organised by fifth year students and raised over €1750 for *Childhood Cancer Ireland* in memory of Mia Seligman. It involved a sponsored swim, a bake sale, and a talent show. The next meeting of the Board Student Voice Subcommittee will be convened in the coming weeks.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

The Department of Education (DE) has recently updated its *School Sector Climate Action Mandate*. The school has and is making significant progress in each of the areas outlined in the mandate. It is

also evident that there are opportunities to broaden the school's endeavours, for example in relation to waste management and solar opportunities. In relation to solar, the school has completed an expression of interest with the DE in relation to the Schools Photovoltaic Program, now that this program has been extended to the Dublin region. The school has also engaged an audit of its lighting, with a view to a possible move from fluorescent to LED lighting in all areas.

Department of Education circular letters since the last meeting of the Board:

0073/2024

Revision of Teacher Salaries under the Public Service Agreement 2024-2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/0fbc4-revision-of-teacher-salaries-under-the-public-service-agreement-2024-2026-effective-from-01-october-2024/>

0074/2024

Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) under the Public Service Agreement 2024-2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/1d3ab-revision-of-salaries-for-special-needs-assistants-snas-under-the-public-service-agreement-2024-2026-effective-from-01-october-2024/>

0077/2024

Revision of Salaries of School Secretaries and School Maintenance Staff in Community and Comprehensive Schools under the Public Service Agreement 2024 – 2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/b902a-revision-of-salaries-for-special-needs-assistants-snas-under-the-public-service-agreement-2024-2026-effective-from-01-october-2024/>

0080/2024

New measures to support the Forward Planning for Special Education Provision

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/f16ca-new-measures-to-support-the-forward-planning-for-special-education-provision/>

0085/2024

New Pay rate for School Transport Escorts

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/8e89c-new-pay-rate-for-school-transport-escorts/>

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